

REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19-21 and 23 remain active in the application. Claims 1, 18-20 and 23 have been amended. Claims 13 and 22 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1-12, 14-17, and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patra, Pryadarsan et al. (U.S.P. 6,529,861 B1) (Patra) in view of Chakradhar et al. (S.T. Chakradhar, A. Balakrishnan, and V. D. Agrawal, "An exact algorithm for selecting partial scan flip-flops", 1994 Design Automation Conference, pages, 81-86) (Chakradhar).

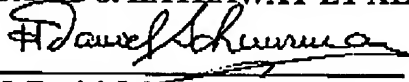
Additionally, Claims 13 and 18 stand objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have opted to rewrite claims 1, 18 and 23 while canceling without prejudice claims 13 and 22. Thus, Applicants believe that the rejection of claims 1-12, 14-17, and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patra in view of Chakradhar et al. has been overcome, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the stated claims based thereon.

In view of the foregoing arguments, Applicants respectfully request that all the rejections and objections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Examiner pass all the pending claims to issue.

Should the Examiner have any suggestions pertaining to the allowance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,
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